The People's Korea

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DPRK, USSR Exchange Messages On Korea's Liberation

President Kim Il Sung and the leadership of the Soviet Union exchanged messages on the occasion of the 43rd anniversary of Korea's liberation from Japanese colonial rule. **(See messages on page 2)**

President Kim Il Sung and Premier Li Gun Mo received a message on Aug. 14 from the Central Committee of the Communist Party of the Soviet Union, the Presidium of the Supreme Soviet and the Council of Ministers of the Union of Soviet Socialist Republics.

President Kim Il Sung sent a message on the same day to Mr. Mikhail S. Gorbachev, General Secretary of the Central Committee of the Communist Party of the Soviet Union and Mr. Andrei A. Gromyko, President of the Presidium of the Supreme Soviet of the USSR.

DPRK President Expresses Condolences

President Kim Il Sung on Aug. 18 sent a message of condolence to Ghulam Ishaq Khan, President of the Islamic Republic of Pakistan, upon hearing the sad news of a sudden death of President Mohammad Zia Ul Haq in an unexpected accident.

I, on behalf of the government of the Democratic People's Republic of Korea, Korean people and myself, express deep condolences to you, government and people of the Islamic Republic of Pakistan and the bereaved family of the deceased, said the message.

DPRK Will Take Appropriate Measures For N-S Music Fest

The Ministry of People's Armed Forces and the Administration Council said in their separate statements that the DPRK will take all necessary measures for a successful north-south joint national music festival proposed by south Korean composer Yun I Sang. **(See statements on page 3)**

The statement issued by a spokesman for the MPAF on Aug. 17 said that the ministry considers it reasonable to make four square kilometre space of the Panmunjom headquarters area centring on Military Demarcation Line Marker No. 100 a venue of the proposed north-south joint national music festival as proposed by the chairman of the Central Committee of the General Federation of the Unions of Literature and Arts of Korea in his letter to Mr. Yun I Sang.

Pyongyang Rejects IOC's Offer

The president of the Olympic Committee of the DPRK, Kim Yu Sun, said in his message to IOC President Juan Antonio Samaranch that Pyongyang would not accept his offer con-

(Continued on page 8)

N-S Parliamentarians Fail To Reach Agreement

Parliamentarians of north and south Korea met at Panmunjom on Aug. 19, 20 and 22 to prepare full-scale parliamentarians' talks proposed by the DPRK in July. But, they failed to reach a final agreement.

The talks, the first direct contact between Pyongyang and Seoul since 1985, were arranged as the July 20 meeting of the Standing Committee of the Supreme People's Assembly of the DPRK proposed to hold a north-south joint parliamentarians' meeting within August to discuss the issue of publishing a joint declaration on nonaggression between the north and the south.

The talks began at the "Tongilgak," the building of the DPRK at Panmunjom on Aug. 19.

Five lawmakers from each side held heated discussion on details about full-scale parliamentary talks for three days. However, they could not reach agreement on the format and agenda for full-scale talks.

The DPRK delegation prepared a draft of the agreement on convocation and steering of north-south joint parliamentary meeting. **(See page 2)**

Under the DPRK's suggestion, a full meeting should comprise all parliamentarians from both sides plus representatives from various walks of life.

Pyongyang said that the question of national reunification is an important problem concerning the vital interests of the whole nation and assumes nationwide character. Chief DPRK delegate Chon Gum Chol said, "Therefore, it is very useful to the debate of problems that figures of the political parties and social organizations representing all strata participating in the meeting and reflect their broad will."

He also called for the participation of those without a seat in the parliament in talks aimed at discussing the reunification issue.

Preliminary meetings for north-south parliamentarians' talks were held at Panmunjom on Aug. 19, 20 and 22. Photo shows the first day meeting. (KCNA Radiophoto)

Seoul wanted a smaller delegation composed only of parliamentarians.

Another major sticking point was whether the full meeting should discuss the proposal for a joint declaration of nonaggression.

Chon Gum Chol said that if a joint declaration on nonaggression is published and the Olympic issue resolved

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Roh Gov. Crushes Student March to Panmunjom Again

Riot police kick south Korean students trying to march to Panmunjom for the planned meeting of north and south Korean students. (Reuter)

See related article & photos on page 4

The Roh Tae Woo government crushed the second attempt by south Korean students to meet their north Korean peers at Panmunjom on Aug. 15. Tens of thousands of riot police were mobilized throughout south Korea so that the authorities could neutralize the students' initiative quickly and effectively.

One report from Seoul claimed that 2,020 students were arrested on Aug. 15 alone.

Although there had been a number of violent protests by students a few days before the march, on Aug. 15, most students refrained from throwing rocks or Molotov cocktails. However, the police went on the offensive from the start, arresting 600 students at Yonsei University alone and beating them arbitrarily as they dragged them away.

The crackdown came when Roh was calling for a north-south summit meeting in his Aug. 15 speech and just four days before the first direct contact between north and south Korea in nearly three years.

Roh had warned the students that an attempt to go to Panmunjom would be sternly delt with.

Students waged 235 demonstration throughout south Korea from Aug. 7 to 12 for the realization of the Aug. 15 north-south student talks.

Tens of thousands of riot and plain-clothes police stood guard at subway stations, intersections and college campuses across Seoul on Aug. 15, stopping anyone who looked like a student. Identification cards were checked, bags

(Continued on page 8)

DPRK-USSR Leaders Exchange Greetings On 43rd Anniv. of Korea's Liberation

President Kim Il Sung sent a message of greetings on Aug. 14 to Mikhail S. Gorbachev, General Secretary of the Central Committee of the Communist Party of the Soviet Union, and Andrei A. Gromyko, President of the Presidium of the Supreme Soviet of the Union of Soviet Socialist Republics, on the 43rd anniversary of Korea's liberation.

The message says:

The Korean people embarked upon a broad avenue of building new Korea free from exploitation and oppression after Aug. 15, when they together with the Soviet Army defeated Japanese imperialism and achieved the historic cause of national liberation.

After the liberation, our people successfully carried out different stages of social revolution in the northern half under the leadership of our party despite the difficult conditions caused by the split of the country and the nation and built a prosperous, independent and sovereign socialist state and are continuously making strenuous efforts to achieve the complete victory of socialism and promote the independent and peaceful reunification of the country under the banner of the three revolutions, ideological, technical and cultural.

The Aug. 15 liberation marked a new milestone in the development of the friendly relations between Korea and the Soviet Union.

The Soviet people not only actively supported and helped our people in the struggle to defend the security of the country and the gains of the revolution from imperialist aggression and build a society but also are expressing firm solidarity with our people in the just cause of socialist construction and the peaceful reunification of the country.

The Korean people positively support the Soviet party, government and people in the struggle to promote socio-economic development, deepen the perestroika, establish a comprehensive international security system, realise nuclear disarmament and build a world free from war.

The traditional relations of friendship and cooperation forged between the two parties, two countries and two peoples of Korea and the Soviet Union on the basis of Marxism-Leninism and proletarian internationalism are developing in depth with each passing day in all fields in the spirit agreed upon at the summit meetings between the two countries.

We are satisfied at this and believe that the Korean-Soviet relations of friendship and cooperation will further expand and develop through the common struggle for peace and victory of the cause of socialism and communism.

I take this opportunity to sincerely wish you and the Soviet people greater success in the struggle to implement the decisions of the 27th Congress of the Communist Party of the Soviet Union and the decision of the 19th all-union conference of the party and defend peace and security in Europe, Asia and the rest of the world.

President Kim Il Sung and Premier Li Gun Mo received a message of greetings on Aug. 14 from the Central Committee of the Communist Party of the Soviet Union, the Presidium of the Supreme Soviet and the Council of Ministers of the Union of Soviet Socialist Republics, on the 43rd anniversary of Korea's liberation.

The message says:

The peoples of our two countries valuably keep in their memory the days of battles in the summer of 1945 when the Soviet Army dealt a decisive blow at Japanese imperialism and the cherished desire of the Korean patriots who fought for the freedom and liberation of Korea was realised.

Aug. 15, the day of liberation, opened a favorable prospect for the Korean people to carry out serious democratic reforms and build a new society free from exploitation and social inequality.

Over the past 43 years, the fraternal Korean people under the leadership of their vanguard, the Workers' Party of Korea, have made great achievements in building socialism in Korea, energetically carrying out vast economic and cultural tasks.

The Soviet people are sincerely rejoiced at these achievements made by the working people of the Democratic People's Republic of Korea and express firm solidarity with the Workers' Party of Korea and the DPRK government in their consistent line of relaxing the tensions of the Korean Peninsula and consolidating peace in the Far East.

The Soviet people warmly support the line of peacefully reunifying Korea by means of involving broad segments of political and social forces in the north and the south in this course.

It is noted with satisfaction in the Soviet Union that the many-sided Soviet-Korean relations are effectively developing in accordance with the Treaty of Friendship, Cooperation and Mutual Assistance signed by the Union of Soviet Socialist Republics and the Democratic People's Republic of Korea on the solid basis of Marxism-Leninism and socialist internationalism.

The Soviet people hold that bilateral cooperation should be further developed in politics, economy, culture and international affairs.

The development of our two countries onto a new stage and maximum display of their potentials contribute to strengthening the position and influence of socialism in the world.

On behalf of the Soviet people, we wish you and the entire working people of the Democratic People's Republic of Korea new success in the building of socialism, the carrying out of the decisions of the Sixth Congress of the Workers' Party of Korea and the struggle to reunify Korea on a peaceful and democratic principle.

Agreement of Convocation and Steering Of N-S Joint Parl. Meeting (Draft)

Following is a draft of the agreement on the convocation and steering of a north-south joint parliamentary meeting which was prepared by the head of the DPRK delegation at the Panmunjom meeting between delegates of the north and the south for the preparation of a full-scale parliamentary meeting:

The Supreme People's Assembly of the Democratic People's Republic of Korea and the National Assembly of the Republic of Korea reached a consensus on the convocation of a north-south joint parliamentary meeting (hereinafter referred to as joint meeting) out of the desire to ease tensions between the north and the south, guarantee peace, promote national unity and accelerate the reunification of the country and held a meeting of parliamentarians from the north and the south for the preparation of a joint meeting at Tongilgak in Panmunjom on the 19th of August, 1988.

The parliamentarians from the north and the south at their meeting agreed upon the working procedures for the convocation and steering of the joint meeting as follows:

1. The agenda of the joint meeting.

The agenda of the joint meeting shall include the publication of a joint declaration on nonaggression between the north and the south and the question of the 24th Olympic Games and also questions conducive to the relaxation of tensions and guarantee of peace in the country raised by the south side.

2. The venue of the joint meeting.

The joint meeting shall be held alternately in Pyongyang and in Seoul, Pyongyang being the venue of the first joint meeting.

3. Attendants at the joint meeting and their number.

The joint meeting shall be attended by all the parliamentarians from both sides and 50 representatives of political parties and organizations with no parliamentarians and figures of different circles from each side.

And a 20-member suite shall be present from each side.

4. The date of the first joint meeting and its period.

The first joint meeting shall be called on the 26th of August, 1988, its period being five days and four nights.

5. Procedures for crossing the Military Demarcation Line at Panmunjom.

(1) Each side shall make public the names, sexes and positions of the parliamentarians and representatives of political parties and organizations and figures of various circles, the suite members and reporters coming to the joint meeting and hand over to the opposite side a list of names with photographs attached three days before entering the area of the opposite side each time.

(2) The personnel going to the area of the opposite side for the joint meeting shall carry credentials or identification cards issued by their side's parliament or parliamentary chairman.

(3) The spot of passage across the Military Demarcation Line by the personnel of each side shall be the building on the line at Panmunjom under the control of the reception side.

(4) The travelers of each side shall follow the guidance and order of the opposite side from the moment they cross the Military Demarcation Line at Panmunjom to the moment they return to the area of their side.

6. Personal safety.

(1) Each side shall guarantee in a responsible manner the personal safety and inviolability of the personnel of the opposite side while they stay in its area.

(2) To guarantee personal safety and inviolability, the competent organs shall publish official statements and hand their copies to the opposite side.

7. Offering conveniences.

All the conveniences for the personnel staying in the area of the opposite side for the joint meeting, including means of traffic and communications, lodging and boarding, shall be provided by the host side.

8. Procedures of steering the joint parliamentary meeting.

(1) The joint meeting shall be open to the public in principle, but be held in camera, too, if necessary.

(2) The credentials of the attendants at the joint meeting shall be examined by a joint credentials committee composed of 3 members from each side.

(3) A joint steering committee composed of 5 members from each side shall be formed for a smooth progress of the joint meeting.

(4) The parliamentary chairmen of the north and the south shall be the co-chairmen of the meeting and it shall be presided over by the chairman of the Standing Committee of the Supreme People's Assembly of the Democratic People's Republic of Korea when it is held in Pyongyang and by the chairman of the National Assembly of the Republic of Korea when it is held in Seoul.

(5) Reports or motions on the agenda may be submitted respectively by the north and the south and also by separate political parties represented at the parliaments of both sides.

(6) Speeches may be made freely by all the attendants at the meeting on the democratic principle, the number of the speakers from the north and the south being equal.

(7) The motions debated shall be adopted or rejected by a show of hands or voting and be carried by a majority vote.

(8) The same number of parliamentarians from the north and the south shall participate in the vote and the chairman of the meeting shall not participate in it.

(9) A joint counting committee shall be formed to count the votes. The committee shall be composed of five members each from the north and the south.

9. The recording of the meeting shall be done by means convenient to each side such as tape-recording, video-recording and shorthand and the host side shall provide the opposite side with necessary tape-recording relay lines.

10. Other problems raised shall be discussed and decided upon between working personnel of the two sides before the opening of the meeting.

Chon Gum Chol
Head of the north side's delegation for the preparation of north-south joint parliamentary meeting

Pak Jun Gyu
Chief delegate of the south side's delegation for the preparation of north-south joint parliamentary meeting

Panmunjom
19th August, 1988

DPRK Spokesmen's Press Statements

Administration Council

A spokesman for the Administration Council of the DPRK issued a following press statement on Aug. 17 in support of the proposal of Mr. Yun I Sang for a north-south joint national music festival:

Mr. Yun I Sang's proposal for holding a north-south joint national music festival on the demarcation line separating the country into the north and the south is drawing great interest at home and abroad.

As already known, Mr. Yun I Sang who has been making devoted efforts abroad for the independence and democratisation of south Korean society and a peaceful reunification of the country recently proposed separately to the north and the south to hold a north-south joint national music festival on the Military Demarcation Line.

In this connection, the chairman of the Central Committee of the General Federation of the Unions of Literature and Arts of Korea (GFULAK), was authorized to send a letter to him on Aug. 1 expressing full support to his proposal and giving opinions on working matters concerning its organization.

Considering that his proposal is helpful to easing the tension on the Korean Peninsula, promoting national reconciliation and unity and accelerating a peaceful reunification of the country, the Administration Council of the Democratic People's Republic of Korea will provide all conditions and convenience necessary to hold a north-south joint national music festival at Panmunjom as suggested in the letter of the chairman of the Central Committee of the GFULAK.

Hoping that the music festival will be held successfully, we express the expectation that all Koreans at home and abroad and world people will give full support and encouragement for this.

Ministry of People's Armed Forces

A spokesman for the Ministry of People's Armed Forces of the DPRK made public on Aug. 17 the following press statement supporting the initiative of Mr. Yun I Sang to hold a north-south joint national music festival:

The DPRK Ministry of People's Armed Forces supports the proposal of Mr. Yun I Sang to hold a north-south joint national music festival on the Military Demarcation Line, considering it to be a positive initiative in easing the exacerbating tension between the north and the south and promoting national reconciliation and unity.

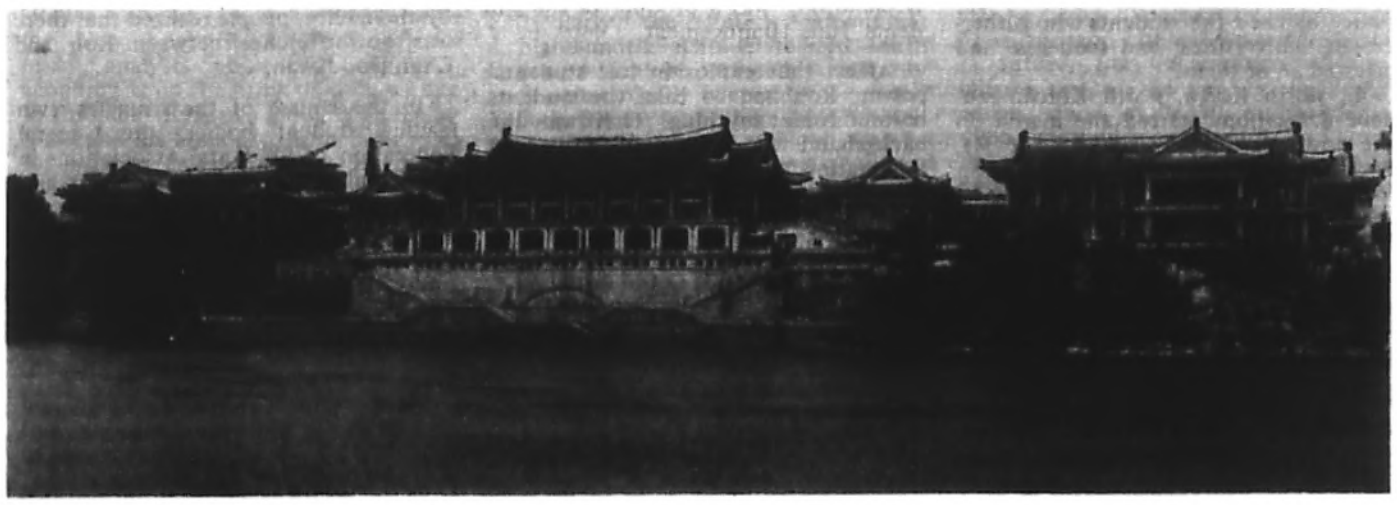
If the rhythm of a joint national music festival, not a gun report, rings out on the Military Demarcation Line where the military confrontation has been tense for 35 years, it will be a prelude to detente and mark a new occasion in creating a favourable atmosphere for national reconciliation and unity and for the peace and peaceful reunification of the country.

The DPRK Ministry of People's Armed Forces will take all necessary measures for the suceessful holding of a north-south joint national music festival at Panmunjom.

Our side, considering it reasonable to make for square kilometer space of the Panmunjom headquarters area centering on Military Demarcation Line Marker No. 100 a venue of the north-south joint national music festival as proposed by the chairman of the Central Committee of the General Federation of the Unions of Literature and Arts of Korea in his letter to Mr. Yun I Sang, will not allow any military or paramilitary personnel except members of the Neutral Nations Supervisory Commission to enter the place of the festival during the festival, make artistes and audience freely act ignoring the demarcation line of the festival place on the days of the festival and refrain from holding meetings of the Military Armistice Commission as far as possible.

The DPRK Ministry of People's Armed Forces calls upon the U.S. side to take corresponding measures for the successful holding of the north-south joint national music festival.

Expansion of Okryu Restaurant Makes Fast Progress



Two more buildings are under construction on both sides of the main building of the Okryu Restaurant.

The expansion of Okryu Restaurant is now progressing at rapid pace.

Two more buildings with a total floor space of more than 6,000 square meters now under construction on either side of the main building are the same in the outside style and similar in size.

Inauguarated in August 1960, the restaurant is noted for well-known Pyongyang noodles, soft drinks and dishes of wide variety.

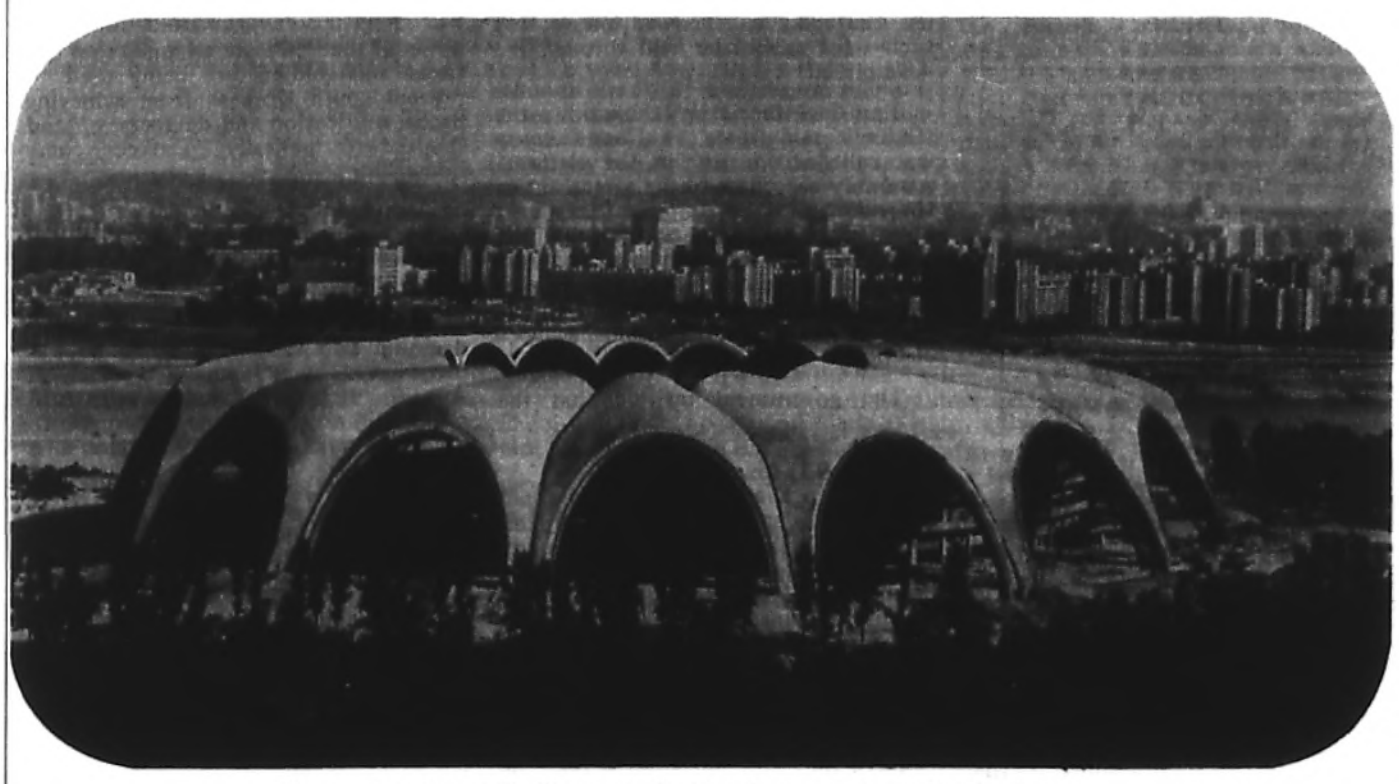
Secretary Kim Jong Il in May gave instructions to expand Okryu Restaurant on a bigger scale, deeply considerate of the daily growing demand of the Korean people in their material and cultural life. And he formed a powerful construction force and ensured all conditions for the project.

In less than two months after the ground-breaking on May 31, the builders completed the main frame assembling and vast roofing projects and entered the finishing stage.

What is characteristic of the whole structure of the buildings is that the restaurant at large presents a harmonized composition of grandeur, dignity and stability, the main building standing out conspicuously.

The features characterising its inside structures are the spacious dining halls of the first and second floors, which can accommodate a large number of working people at a time and the outdoor dining place is as large as the main hall.

Roofing of Rungrado Stadium Completed



The construction of the Rungrado Stadium is progressing at the final stage.

The roofing of the Rungrado Stadium where the opening and closing ceremonies of the 13th World Festival of Youth and Students will be held has been completed, the KCNA reported on Aug. 12.

The vast roofing project was one of the most difficult and hard work in the construction of the stadium. With its completion the stadium made its grand appearance and an earlier completion of the construction is confidently foreseen.

The area of the peculiar parachute-shaped roofing shades is 92,000 square metres or more.

The builders have successfully assembled the sloping arch beams each weighing 120 to 130 tons and above 190 shade trusses 100 to 120 metres long each.

They have also completed the heating system, water supply and drainage systems, lighting equipment and other technical projects.

They have finished the plastering of the exterior in the main and are now stepping up tiling.

Its total floor space is over 166,000 square meters with 150,000 seats.

Its spacious ground can successfully ensure any international sports game and festival function.

It has a rainbow-shaped roof, stand with over 90 tiers, nearly 80 entrances and scores of lifts and escalators.

Students Fail to Reach Panmunjom Again

Despite the strong desire of Korean youth and students for national reunification, the Roh Tae Woo regime crushed the Aug. 15 north-south student talks by resorting to violent measures.

This clearly showed who wanted reunification of the country and who did not.

People saw that although Roh Tae Woo shows some "democratic and peaceful" attitude and says that he wants the reunification of the country, he is really a man of savage and despotic character and that he wants to fix "two Koreas."

Prelude

OnMar. 29, Kim Jung Gi, who ran in the presidential election of the Students' Council of Seoul National University, published an "open letter to the youths and students of Kim Il Sung University of the DPRK."

In the letter, he proposed (1) to hold a grand cross-the-country march of the youths and students of Korea for the reconciliation of the nation, (2) to hold a sports festival by north-south youth and students for the grand national solidarity from Sep. 15 to 17 at Seoul National University or Kim Il Sung University, (3) for this purpose, to hold a meeting on June 10, at Panmunjom or Geneva or another third country.

Although Kim Jung Gi failed in the election, the Students Council of Seoul National University named him Chairman of the "Special Committee for the National Peace and Independent Reunification of the Fatherland" and decided to carry out his pledge in the name of the Students' Council.

On May 14, it made this proposal at the meeting of the All-Nation Students Representatives Council (Chondaehyop) held at Korea University and the proposal was fully supported by the students' councils of 70 universities and colleges all over the country.

But the June 10 student talks were foiled by the Roh regime and the U.S.

To crush the June 10 student talks, the Roh regime decided on June 6 to mobilize 57,000 riot police and on June 9 they posted 57 units of riot police around Yonsei University and 20,000 riot police in some 250 places in Seoul.

In addition, they checked all the hotels, temples and stations in Seoul and arrested all the students who came up to Seoul.

The U.S. captured the four student leaders including Kim Jung Gi who went to Panmunjom for the meeting.

A spokesman of the U.S. army said "It is beyond the competence of us to give the permission, because all citizens must ask permission from their government."

But it was a lie.

According to the cease-fire agreement, all people are required to obtain permission from the U.N. Commander-in-Chief to use Panmunjom.

Thus, the planned June 10 student talks were foiled by the Roh regime and the U.S.

The students learned many lessons from the failure and began to make preparations anew for the Aug. 15 student talks.

Aug. 9-15

On Aug. 9, south Korean students started a grand cross-the-country march. At the top of the Mt. Halla, Cheju Island, nine students who had escaped strict watch by police to climb the summit, declared that the march had started.

But no sooner had they climbed down the mountain they were arrested by the police.

On that very day, students across the country held meetings and declared the start of the march.

Faced with the students' activity, the Roh regime took strong measures to oppress and crush their plans. The police blocked the students who gathered at universities and colleges and arrested all of them.

In north Korea, north Korean student delegations started the march on the previous day at the top of Mt. Paekdu on Aug. 9, while south Korean students were waging bloody struggles, they reached Pyongyang, enthusiastically welcomed by the citizens.

Meanwhile in south Korea, 753 students were reportedly arrested on Aug. 10, and 397 on the next day.

The figure was raised day after day: on Aug. 13, some 1,300 students were arrested, on Aug. 14, more than 1,500 students and on Aug. 15, 2,020 students were reportedly arrested throughout the country.

On that day, the Roh regime turned 24,000 police and riot police against the students to foil the talks.

Roh's deceitfulness

After all, the Roh regime didn't allow the students to hold the talks. This shows Roh's true character which wears a mask of democracy.

In the "July 7 Special Declaration" he said that he was going to "open doors to promote exchanges of visits between north and south Korean politicians, businessmen, journalists, religious and cultural leaders, artists, scholars, athletes and students."

The attitude taken by him this time was contrary to this declaration.

To begin with, the "July 7 Special Declaration" was a product of the students' June 10 movement.

After the explosion of students' power, Roh had to calm the students before doing anything. That was the background to the "July 7 Special Declaration." This followed his pattern after last year's "June 29 Special Declaration."

But as a matter of fact, these "declarations" have never been realized.

On Aug. 15, this year, he made a statement in which he expressed a hope for a talk with President Kim Il Sung of the DPRK.

Needless to say, this followed the same pattern as the "declarations;" and was intended to divert public criticism.

Students wearing T-shirts sent by resident Korean youths in Japan hold a meeting at Korea University on Aug. 9.

Hundreds of students, tied to each other with pieces of cloths, attempt to march out of Yonsei University to go to Panmunjom for N-S student talks. But they couldn't make it because of the violent interference by the riot police. At the time, more than 1,000 students were arrested at Yonsei University.

Tactics

The ruling Democratic Justice Party opposed the Aug. 15 N-S student talks because (1) All-Nation Students Representatives Council (Chondaehyop) could not represent all universities and college students, (2) north Koreans might use the talks to their advantage, (3) such talks should be held through the government.

Refuting the DJP's assertion, the students said that (1) Chondaehyop was called to testify in the National Assembly according to the agreement of the ruling and opposition parties, (2) it is unreasonable to block the talks that were scheduled two months ago only by reason of a "possibility", (3) we cannot recognize as president a man who got only 36% support even through a rigged election.

The government insisted that the talks might be used by north, but it was not the north but the government that used the talks for their advantage.

Although they said that they would dissuade the students from their plans by Aug. 10, they did not mention any such persuation work at an executive meeting of the DJP held on Aug. 11.

They planned to lead students to use "violence" by blocking them by force.

By so doing, they thought they could inspire some hostile feelings against students among citizens.

But the students outwitted the government by desisting from throwing Molotov cocktails on Aug. 15.

Vistas from now

This time the N-S student talks were frustrated by the suppressive measures of the government, but their struggles were not fruitless.

Through the struggles, the problem of reunification became a major political issue among south Korean people.

And through the violent oppression by riot police, people realized that there was no difference between Roh and Chun Doo Hwan.

In the course of the struggles, two leading student bodies, the General Federation of Students' Associations in the Seoul District (Sochongryun) and the Committee for Promotion of the Organization of a General Federation of University Students in the Seoul District (Sokonchu), which had been divided because of differences in their theories, were unified on July 25, for the reunification of the country.

Many resident Koreans abroad and supporters in foreign countries also stood behind the students, wishing to see them carry out the talks successfully.

From Japan, resident Korean youths sent T-shirts to the students of north and south Korea as a symbol of solidarity.

From the U.S., resident Korean youths visited the north to attend the scheduled talks as observers.

On Aug. 15, Charles Schneiner, a member of the New York-based U.S. War Registers League told the rally in Seoul that "We are ashamed that our taxes and soldiers are being used to prevent south Koreans from achieving peace, unification and democracy," and shouted to the rally "Yankees, come home!"

Although the students were frustrated again to hold the talks, they will never lose hopes nor will they give up their activities.

O Yong Sik, chairman of the Chondaehyop said as follows when he was interviewed by a Japanese reporter on Aug. 6; "If the N-S student talks turn out a failure, we will never propose to hold such talks again.

In such a case, we will accuse the government of preventing our talks and on the other hand, unfold a one million-signature collection campaign for the co-hosting of the Olympic Games.

"At the same time," he went on to say, "we will hold political meetings during the Olympics so that the citizens won't be carried away by the mood of the Olympics, and we will tell the people that the single-handedly held Olympic Games run counter to the reunification of the country and the desire of the people".

South Korean Economy Faces "3-Highs" Depression (2)

Deepening Subordination to U.S. and Japan

Part of the Economic Crisis of the U.S.

Symbolic Black Monday

Since the beginning of this year, the south Korean economy has been faced with a depression due to the three highs (higher won value, higher prices and higher wages). It is feared that when the boom due to special demand related to the Olympics cools down, the economic situation would unavoidably become increasingly serious.

Particularly, the United States is applying strong pressure on south Korea, urging it to raise the won value against the dollar, liberalize the import of agricultural products and deregulate financial transactions with foreign countries. This is explained by the fact that the U.S. economy is in its critical phase.

The Black Monday crash of the U.S. stock market on Oct. 14 kicked off a chain reaction of sharp stock price falls throughout the world, causing an impact similar in scale to the crash which led to the worldwide depression of 1929. "This was the first heart attack caused by the decline of the U.S. economy, and the patient should warn against a more devastating second attack that is certain to come again." (Roger Caverick, chief economist with the New York Stock Exchange) As many analysts point out, the U.S. economy is on the brink of collapse due to President Reagan's global strategy by force and his arms expansion policy. As for what is called the twin deficit, its fiscal deficit totaled $220.7 billion in 1986 and trade deficit $171.2 billion in 1987, and these deficits are tending to increase. The United States, which had been the world's largest external creditor nation, slipped to a net external debt country in the spring of 1985 for the first time in 71 years, and at the end of 1987, it became the world's largest net debt country with its external debts amounting to $424.2 billion. Interest payments for the debts alone amount to more than $30 billion a year. It is predicted that its external debts will reach $1,000 billion early in the 1990s. It may be said that the United States is being precipitated headlong down its path of decline toward the end of the 20th century just as Britain did at the end of the 19th century.

Pressure for Higher Won Value Against Dollar

Faced with this situation, the United States, caring little about maintaining its appearance worthy of its vaunted position as a superpower, is bringing pressure to bear not only on the EC countries with a trade surplus with the United States, including south Korea, one of the four dragons on NIEs (south Korea, Taiwan, Hong Kong and Singapore), urging them to raise the exchange rates of their currencies against the dollar, ease import restrictions, open their markets to U.S. goods and protect the intellectual property of the United States, in order to reduce its trade deficits with these countries. Particularly, the United States takes a high-handed attitude toward south Korea, which is politically, militarily and economically dependent on the United States, and there is no alternative for the south Korean authorities but to yield to these pressures. In this way, the south Korean economy is more critical now than it was at any time in the past.

At present, south Korean businessmen are afraid that the boom due to the three "lows" will sooner or later cool and that a depression due to the three "highs" will hit them in the near future.

The Maeil Kyongje Shinmoon, dated June 23, warned, "The profitability of export-oriented enterprises are rapidly deteriorating. Though anticipated, the increased won exchange rate, raised wages, higher prices of raw materials, etc. are directly reflected in export performance. Hit by stagnant exports and deteriorating profitability due to the raised value of the won, many small and medium enterprises are curtailing their mill operation rates, suspending operations or have gone bankrupt, and not a few large enterprises are in management difficulties.

Of the three "highs," they are most afraid of a high won value. The won value is being raised rapidly against the dollar under pressure brought by the United States to bear on south Korea. In September 1985 when the G5 meeting of finance ministers and central bankers was held, the exchange rate of the won was 890 won aginst the dollar. The exchange rate has been raised since then – 3.2 percent in 1986, 8.7 percent in 1987 and 9.46 percent as of July 23 this year. The exchange rate being 724 won at present, the total increase margin is 18.7 percent. At present, the United States demands that the won rate be raised 20 percent this year alone. Thus, the won rate will be further raised in future. For information, the exchange rate of the yen to the dollar, which stood at ¥230 in September 1985, has now been raised to ¥133, and the increase rate is as high as 42.3 percent. The New Taiwan dollar was upped 39 percent by the end of last year.

Increasing Bankruptcies Due to Stagnant Export

Under the impact of the raised won value, many small and medium enterprises are suffering from deteriorating profitability, or are being forced to suspend operation or go bankrupt, and the number of unemployment is on the increase.

The above-quoted Maeil Kyongje Shinmoon said on Feb. 4 this year, "According to a recent survey of 1,094 small and medium enterprises, 69 percent of the number were doing export business on a deficit basis when the won exchange rate was 770 won, and 91.3 percent of them were unable to operate on a paying basis when the rate was raised to 750 won and 97.6 percent would be unable to make both ends meet if the exchange rate was increased to 730 won."

The director of the Bank of Korea reported on July 25 that south Korea's GNP growth rate was 15 percent in the first quarter of this year, but it fell to 9 percent in the second quarter and predicted that it would dip to an 8 percent level in the latter half of this year. That the country's economic activity is getting stagnant is clear from sluggish exports. The export increase rate in June this year was up 18.5 percent over a year earlier. This represented a sharp decline from 40-25 precent advances recorded in the January-April period of this year. The growth rate is certain to slow down in future.

"If the won exchange rate is raised at the present pace, more than 50 percent of small and medium textile enterprises will have to close down in the latter half of this year. They could manage to maintain themselves in the first quarter thanks to profits earned last year. If the won rate is raised above 720 won, small and medium textile firms will be unable to operate on a paying basis," complained a textile firm manager. (Shin Dong-A, June issue)

"U.S. Is Responsible for Division of Korea", Survey Shows

Accoridng to the result of a questionnaire recently released in south Korea, "More than 85.8% of south Korean university students believe that the U.S. is most responsible for the national division of the country."

It also added that the majority of students think that U.S. troops stationed in south Korea landed in south Korea as an occupation army, not a liberation army and built a neo-colonial fascist system in south Korea.

The questionnaire was conducted on 1496 students at 37 universities in south Korea by the Modern Society Institute.

According to the replies submitted to the questionnaire, only six % of them are against the view that the U.S. is most responsible for the division of Korea.

It says that 33.3% of the respondents believed the U.S. was responsible for national unification not being realized by now. However, at Seoul National University 65.3% of the respondents held this opinion.

Of them 55.5% agreed with the view that U.S. troops stationed in south Korea after Aug. 15, 1945 were an occupation army and established a neo-colonial fascist system, whereas 17.1% were against the view.

U.S.'s Inveterate Scheme to Occupy S. Korea

The U.S. forces authorities in south Korea, in a statement on Aug. 17 on the question of the transference of the U.S. Eighth Army setups to a local area, cried over someone's fictitious "threat" and declared that "There is no change in the stand hitherto" to leave the U.S. forces in south Korea as long as the 'government' and people want it.

The policy programme adopted on the previous day at the National Convention of the U.S. Republican Party made it plain that the U.S. "forces and military bases" in south Korea would be maintained.

This revealed the scheme of the permanent occupation of south Korea by the U.S. aggression forces.

There has never been and can never be "threat of aggression" from the north. The outcries over the north's "threat" which the U.S. let out whenever an opportunity presents itself are intented to invent a pretext to justify their policy for the permanent occupation of south Korea.

Still more ridiculous is their attempt to justify their permanent occupation policy, reversing black and white with the claim that the south Korean people want the continued presence of the U.S. forces.

Another Vulpine Scheme By Roh Gov't

Yun Gil Jung, a representative member of the ruling Democratic Justice Party in south Korea on Aug. 3 disclosed a plan to form a coalition cabinet with opposition parties with the exception of the Party for Peace and Democracy so that the present presidential government could be transformed into a parliamentary cabinet system.

He also noted the day before, while in the Philippines, that "We are at a crucial time that requires a parliamentary cabinet system from us."

His remarks, which caused a ripple in the political world in south Korea, revealed the true color of the Roh Tae Woo government.

Roh Tae Woo, when he was a candidate for the presidential election, promised to hold a national referendum asking for a mandate from the people to continue as president after the Olympic Games.

However, the present 6th "Republic" led by Roh Tae Woo is now under heavy pressure from the opposition and the people to investigate all the irregularities concerning former president Chun Doo Hwan and the truth of the Kwangju incident which took place under the 5th "Republic".

If the Roh Tae Woo government reveals the full picture of the irregularities and the truth of the Kwangju incident, it might bring the present government to the brink of destruction. It will become difficult for the present government to obtain the confidence of the people in a national referendum after the Olympics because those who are said to be concerned with the irregularities and the incident are still in power.

Therefore, the Roh government hinted that it was interested in a coalition cabinet with the opposition in an attempt to divert attention from these immediate issues facing the government.

Such attempt, however, will be in vain as the irregularities, corruptions and the truth of the incident are being brought to light by the opposition forces and the people.

Preparations for 13th World Fest. of Youth & Students Under Way in DPRK

Brisk preparations for the 13th World Festival of Youth and Students are being made in Korea.

The Korean preparatory committee for the festival is building festival stages diversely. They started building the stages after selecting nearly 30 out of hundreds of stage designs presented by youth and students and specialists throughout the country.

The preparatory committee is also expanding railway stations and wharfs for the festival guests, preparing all kinds of vehicles and facilities, and building parking lots and berths in many places.

Pyongyang is being built to be a more beautiful and cultural city, and parks and recreation grounds decorated more charmingly.

Excellent facilities for rest, games and services are also making their appearance at the parks and recreation grounds on the Moran Hill, Mt. Taesong and Mt. Ryongak.

An embankment project is being stepped up at the final stage along the River Taedong between Pyongyang and Nampo.

Parks and recreation grounds with various amusement facilities are being built on Rungra, Yanggak and Ssuk islets on the River Taedong.

Recreation ground management offices are breeding a number of water birds, ducks, swans, geese, seagulls in order to adorn the rivers Taedong and Potong more beautifully.

The preparatory committee is promoting the work to secure various kinds of flower seeds famous in the world and bring them into full bloom under the climatic conditions of Korea.

Meanwhile, modern hothouses and storehouses for flowers are being built on a full-fledged scale.

It was decided at the first session of the International Preparatory Committee of the 13th World Festival of Youth and Students (WFYS) held in Moscow from Feb. 5 to 8, 1987 to hold the festival in Pyongyang in the summer of 1989.

The Korean preparatory committee was organized on Mar. 3 last year with Choe Ryong Hae, chairman of the League of Socialist Working Youth of Korea, as its chairman.

The second session of the International Preparatory Committee for the 13th WFYS held in New Delhi in May this year adopted a joint communique and an appeal (See page 6 of The People's Korea, June 4, '88 issue), which called on all national preparatory committees and youth and student organizations of the world to render possible assistance to the work of the festival.

Earlier on Feb. 12 this year, the consultative meeting for preparations for the festival was held in Kabul under the sponsorship of the Asian Students Information Centre. The meeting called for largest positive contributions by all youth and students organizations in the Asian and Pacific region.

The 63rd Meeting of the Administrative Council of the International Radio and Television Organization (OIRT) which was held in Bulgaria over June 5-7 adopted a resolution on an information about preparations for reporting the 13th World Festival of Youth and Students to be held in the DPRK in 1989.

The resolution appealed to radio organizations of all member nations to widely broadcast the 13th World Festival and give assistance to the DPRK Radio and TV Broadcasting Committee in preparations for this important function.

Meanwhile, preparatory committees were formed in many countries. This year, national preparatory committees for the festival were formed in more than 20 countries including the Soviet Union, Australia and Chile (As of Aug. 17).

On May 10 the Soviet preparatory committee was formed with First Secretary Victor Mironenko of the Central Committee of the Lenin Young Communist League as its chairman.

News media of socialist countries recently introduced the preparations in the DPRK for the festival.

Noting that the DPRK is striving to provide best conveniences to the participants in the first world festival of youth and students to be held in the Asian continent, Tass continued:

The construction of all objects of the festival is progressing apace. The Rungrado Stadium, the venue of the opening ceremony of the festival, is being built faster than schedule and apartment houses and hotel buildings are rising up like mushrooms after the rain in various districts of the city of Pyongyang. City parks are being rebuilt better and new cultural recreation grounds with many merry-making facilities are making their appearance.

Tass also reported that a press hall for foreign journalists is being appointed in Chollima Street. **(Aug. 9 KCNA report)**

A poster for the 13th World Festival of Youth and Students to be held in the DPRK next year.

Int'l Press Hall

The four-storied press hall situated in Chollima Street in the central district of Pyongyang is now being furnished with material and technical means needed for coverage and news service of the festival and with facilities and equipment for the promotion of convenience.

The installation of various modern telecommunications and technical equipment in Pyongyang will make it possible for foreign reporters to contact their home countries any moment.

The press hall also has an office with typewriters for different languages, where reporters will work freely.

Besides, in the press hall there will appear a documentation room where necessary publications and other materials are available for the news service of reporters and cameramen. Here journalists can promptly receive function programs, a guidebook of Pyongyang, various newspapers, bulletins and the like.

The preparatory committee is also pushing ahead with the work of fully guaranteeing activities and living conditions of reporters.

Any reporter with an ID card for the coverage of the festival is free to use all facilities in the press hall and has a free access to festival function places.

They will also board and lodge at deluxe hotels in Pyongyang, and use all the public means of transport including buses and subway cars free of charge.

The press hall is also being equipped with a well-arranged medical room.

The festival preparatory committee is also busy with preparations for the tour and coverage of scenic and historical spots in Pyongyang and local areas on the part of reporters.

Craftwork and Fine Arts Exhibition Halls

Designs of exhibition halls of Korean crafts and works of art have been completed.

Fourteen makeshift houses will be set up in broad areas on both sides of the River Taedong between the Okryu Bridge and the Taedong Bridge for the display of graceful and peculiar Korean crafts and art pieces.

Over 20,000 items would be exhibited in the makeshift houses to show part of the craftwork and fine arts of Korea.

The designs of the exhibition halls show their expected exhibits such as Koryo porcelain, metal crafts, stoneworks, lacquer ware inlaid with mother of pearl, Mannyonhwa, feather crafts, straw goods and wood works, which fully represent the brilliant national culture created by the intelligent and talented Korean people from olden times and meet the requirements of the present time.

The designs also show Korean paintings, oil paintings, graphic paintings, sculptures and other fine art works.

The fine art works depict with delicate techniques the grand monumental edifices. The national customs and optimistic life of the Korean people, beautiful flowers, birds and landscape and others deep in national tinges.

Different kinds of souvenir badges are also included in the designs.

The festival participants will also have an opportunity to see people creating crafts and works of art in the exhibition halls.

Large Folding Screen

A draft picture of a large folding screen which will be laid at the international folk festivals ground of the 13th World Festival of Youth and Students was completed.

The large folding screen, 110 metres wide and 2.5 metres high will draw the attention of participants in the festival for it properly retains the national traditions in accordance with the aesthetic sentiments and diversely and truthfully depicts their form and content.

It shows with the main the popular folklore plays which the Korean people have liked most from olden times and are today inheriting.

The first part of the large folding screen vividly describes the fine scenery of Mt. Kumgang, good mountains and clear water, where a morning sun rises.

Depicted there is the fantastic and beautiful scenery of Mt. Kumgang along with a legend that fairies in the sky came down, attracted by the superb scenic beauty of multifarious peaks tinged with red.

Strikingly shown in the second part are the archery match and optimistic and emotional life of the Koguryo people with national resourcefulness, courage and staunch will.

The Koguryo people could display high national pride and brave spirit and defend the honor of the country and dignity of the nation because they cultivated military arts and courage, cherishing love for the country from their early years.

Pictures of grand hunting and military art games which will be pictured in the screen will specially attract the attention of participants in the festival.

The third part truthfully shows the national habits of life of the Korean people in various pictures.

It shows with national emotion the dancing and singing of peasants, masque dance, swing, seesaw and Korean wrestling which had been created in the course of diligently working, regarding the farming to be the great foundation of the country from olden times.

The collective dancing and singing of peasants which show labour spirit and collective *yut*-game (a traditional game played with four sticks), in particular, are folklore plays which are liked by the Korean people today; they will further attract the eyes of people.

Youth and students and public figures of all walks of life in various countries which will participate in the festival will through this large folding screen more deeply realise the optimistic life emotion of the resourceful and courageous Korean people and further deepen friendship with them.

The culture and art department of the Korean preparatory committee for the festival is now pressing ahead with the work to manufacture the large folding screen as early as possible.

8th Meet of NAM Coordinating Countries on SMQC In Pyongyang

The Eighth Meeting of the Coordinating Countries of the NAM in the Field of Standardization, Metrology and Quality Control (SMQC) which opened in Pyongyang on Aug. 2 closed on Aug. 8.

The meeting was attended by Afghan, Algerian, Burkina Faso, Cameroonian, Cuban, Ethiopian, Indian, Indonesian, Iranian, Iraqi, the DPRK, Libyan, Malaysian, Mozambican, Nicaraguan, Nigerian, Palestinian, Senegalese, Vietnamese, Yugoslav and Zimbabwean delegations and delegates.

Li Ja Ban, chairman of the state commission of science and technology, and other officials concerned were present there.

The meeting of the coordinating countries was preceded by meetings of functional groups and a seminar on the examination of measuring instruments and quality certification.

The meetings of functional groups discussed problems of information in the field of standardization, metrology and quality control and quality certification and international examination of measuring instruments using national primary standards and standard measuring instruments.

Made public at the seminar were the results of researches for solving important problems practically arising in the field of the SMQC in the non-aligned and developing countries and theoretical problems cropping up in further developing scientific and technical work in this field.

The meeting of the coordinating countries deliberated problems raised at the meetings of functional groups and the seminar and examined the implementation of the recommendations of the Seventh Meeting of the Coordinating Countries of the NAM in the Field of the SMQC and the Third Meeting of Experts of the Non-Aligned and Developing Countries in the Field of the SMQC.

The meeting also discussed the date and venue of the 9th Meeting of the Coordinating Countries of the NAM in the Field of the SMQC and the Fourth Meeting of the Experts in the Non-Aligned and Developing Countries in the Field of SMQC.

A final report of the meeting was adopted.

The meeting marked an important milestone in developing cooperation and exchange among the non-aligned and developing countries in the field of the SMQC and in ensuring unity of action.

With National Pride As Koreans

— 1988 Summer School Held in Various Regions —

Students seriously listening to a lecture.

The 1988 summer school for Korean students studying at Japanese schools was held in seven regions including the Tohoku, Hokkaido, Kanto and the Tokai areas from July 26 to 28.

The summer school has been held for over ten years as an annual event under the auspices of the Korean Youth League in Japan and the Society for Korean Students in Japan for the purpose of leading Korean students at Japanese schools to increase their national consciousness.

Every year, many students participate in the summer school to strengthen their national identity as Koreans.

This year more than 2,000 Korean students at Japanese schools attended.

Most participants were those attended Japanese schools from primary school, keeping their Korean names secret to avoid unfair racial discrimination. It is not too much to say that they come to hate to have been born as Koreans.

During the period of the summer school, a variety of events were organized, for example, a fashion show of national costumes, a dinner show by a Korean song and dance troupe in Japan, a symposium on "The Fatherland, Nation and Youth," performances and so on.

The summer school was an unforgettable experience to the students.

They changed their views on Korea, their homeland and their future, while talking with Korean students attending Korean schools and holding discussions with them with great enthusiasm.

Yu Hwa Su from Fukuoka Prefecture is one of such participants.

He was persuaded by a member of the Korean Youth League in Japan into participating in this year's summer school. Participating in the various events and activities for three days, he made up his mind to live with national pride as a Korean in defiance of racial discrimination against him.

After a stage performance he climbed the stage and appealed to the audience, shouting at the top of his voice, "I will live with national pride as a Korean."

The hall was filled with stormy applause for a while.

A panelist speaks about the fatherland, nation and youth at a symposium.

Meeting to Support Aug. 15 N-S Students Talks Held Here

Participants give enthusiastic encouragement to the students of north and south Korea working for Aug. 15 north-south student talks.

A central meeting to support Aug. 15 north-south student talks was held at the Tokyo Korean Cultural Hall on Aug. 13.

The meeting was participated in by Chairman Han Duk Su, First Vice Chairman Li Jin Gyu, of the Central Standing Committee of the General Association of Korean Residents in Japan (Chongryun), other Chongryun officials and workers and compatriots from the Kanto area.

Slogans including "Let's support the struggle of south Korean youth and people for the independent and peaceful reunification" and "Let's realize agreements in various fields between the north and south for the peaceful reunification of the fatherland" were put up on the walls of the hall.

Chairman Han Duk Su made a speech, in which he noted that the north and south students made increased efforts to promote Aug. 15 north-south student talks and take a historic step toward the peaceful reunification of the fatherland by starting the grand national cross-the-country march.

He denounced the Roh Tae Woo regime as a military fascist regime for oppressing the righteous struggle of the south Korean youth and people.

Expressing full support for the struggling students and people of south Korea, he concluded his speech by appealing to participants to achieve the historic cause of reunification through unity of the north and the south.

He was followed by four other speakers.

The attendants were expressed their determination to turn out in the patriotic movement to realize agreements in various fields between the north and south.

In Pyongyang

A meeting celebrating the 43rd anniversary of national liberation was held on Aug. 14 at the People's Palace of Culture, Pyongyang.

Invited there were Boris Morozov, charge d'affaires ad interim, and officials of the Soviet embassy in Pyongyang and Soviet visitors staying in Korea.

Li Jong Ryul, minister of public health who is chairman of the Central Committee of the Korean-Soviet Friendship Society, spoke at the meeting.

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were searched and detainees were marched off to police buses.

Meanwhile, a north Korean student delegation together with 20 observers and many Korean and foreign reporters arrived at the conference room of the Neutral Nations Supervisory Commission (NNSC), the venue for the north-south student talks which were scheduled to take place at 3 p.m.

Accompanying the delegation were Korean students from the United States.

The U.S. Army turned down a request by the KPA to prepare the conference room of the NNSC for the talks. So, the north Korean delegation had to stand while they waited for the south Korean students to arrive.

Ko Ung Sam, head of the north Korean student delegation told reporters after waiting more than one hour that the failure of the Aug. 15 north-south student talks and the meeting of the grand cross-country march squads at Panmunjom were attributable to the obstructive moves of the U.S. and Roh Tae Woo.

The (north) Korean Students Committee on Aug. 17 denouced the Roh Tae Woo government for blocking the planned student talks.

In a statement issued that day, the committee called the Roh government "a military fascist clique," and said "democracy", "dialogue" and "reunification" about which they are loud-mouthed are all deception and hypocrisy.

The student committee urged Seoul to stop repressing the south Korean students desirous of reunification and release all the arrested students unconditionally and immediately.

North-south student talks were originally proposed by Seoul National University students in March.

The first attempt to have a meeting was scheduled for June 10. However, the south Korean authorities prevented this from taking place by mobilizing 60,000 police to crush the students.

Following on from this south Korean students proposed a second meeting on Aug. 15 and their north Korean counterparts promptly agreed to take part.

North and south Korean students had agreed to stage a cross-country grand march for a week, starting on Aug. 8. The march was to have been from Mt. Paekdu in the north and Mt. Halla in the south. The north Korean students conducted the march, supported by DPRK citizens. However, in the south the authorities thwarted the students' attempt to stage the march.

(Continued from page 1)

in the common interest of the nation at a north-south joint parliamentary meeting, it will undoubtedly open up an epochal phase for national reconciliation, unity and peaceful reunification.

South Korean chief delegate Pak Jun Gyu said that two governments should first deal with the issue of a joint declaration on nonaggression, placing top priority on the Olympics problems.

Pointing out that only when tension, a product of confrontation, is eased, is it possible to solve other issues smoothly, Chon Gum Chol stressed that the issue of publishing a joint declaration on nonaggression should be discussed as a top item on the agenda and the Olympics issues as well which brook no further delay.

At the Aug. 20 meeting held in the portion of the south side at Panmunjom, Chon made some concessions about the agenda for a full-fledged meeting.

Firstly, the problem of publishing a joint declaration on nonaggression, secondly, the invitation of Pyongyang by Seoul to the 24th Olympic Games and Olympic co-hosting by the north and the south, and thirdly, the problem of realization of many-sided cooperation and interchange between the north and the south. The south Korean chief delegate insisted on its intention not to share the Games with Pyongyang, saying that the co-hosting is impossible.

Pyongyang on Roh's Aug. 15 Statement

Rodong Sinmun on Aug. 18 said that the "address on the liberation day" made by Roh Tae Woo on Aug. 15 is run through with deceptions, threats and lies to put down the fighting spirit of the south Korean people for independence, democracy and reunification and ensure the stability of the colonial dictatorial system.

In a signed commentary the paper said:

In his address Roh Tae Woo deceived and threatened people by embellishing subordination as "national self-respect" and the military fascist dictatorship as "democracy".

Though he brought forward "summit talks between the north and the south" in his address as if he were interested in reunification, it is neither his first initiative nor his invention.

We had already initiated the highest-level talks as a basic step for improving north-south relations and open up a decisive phase for peaceful reunification and made all our efforts possible for its materialization in the early 1970s when the door of dialogue opened between the north and the south for the first time.

In the 1980s when the ruler was changed in south Korea, we repeatedly expressed our stand on arranging the highest-level talks by advancing north-south dialogue and took various reasonable measures for creating an atmosphere on holding talks.

It was entirely because of the south Korean authorities' wrong stand and stance towards dialogue and the reunification question that the highest-level talks between the north and the south failed to open despite our patient efforts.

The successive rulers of south Korea have pursued a dialogue for division, not for reunification, and sought a permanent division, not the reunification of the country.

In his "address" Roh Tae Woo, too, gave a lip service to north-south dialogue, even after mobilizing the police over 100,000 strong in suppressing in cold blood the students demanding the north-south student talks and walking away to the police thousands of them.

In his "address" Roh Tae Woo raised no convincing way for the settlement of the reunification question for the whole nation and expressed no independent stand to break away with the outside forces.

Chanting "summit talks" devoid of intention for reunification and way for reunification will not improve his public image nor relieve him from the hard-up position forsaken by the people.

(Continued from page 1)

tained in an Aug. 11 telex.

"As for the proposal you made this time in your telex, it was already proposed at the second round of the Lausanne joint meeting," said the message dated Aug. 16.

"At that time we made clear our position that we could never accept the proposal. If the north and south, without realizing co-hosting and composing a single team, march side by side holding their flags respectively, it would give the world more strong impression of 'two Koreas' against the desire of our nation for reunification," Kim Yu Sun said in his message.

He stressed that if good results are produced at a north-south joint parliamentary meeting, the DPRK will ask for the cooperation of the IOC.

South Korea's Economy: Is the Honourable Won Taking Sides?

By Steve Young

In the 1960's and 1970's South Korea set itself one primary goal which was to promote high GNP growth, stimulate exports and stifle imports, while at the same time lending massive support to rapid industrialization. The obsessive, single-mindedness which has characterised the pursuit of these aims has fostered a corresponding neglect in welfare spending, care of the elderly, incremental income realization and the improvement of roads and medicine, to mention but a few concerns which have been relegated to second place or worse. While this method may have benefited the economy and in particular the mammoth conglomerates known as chaebols, the comparative lack of public investment and welfare spending has meant that relatively speaking, social development has not kept pace with the evolution of the economy. This in turn has had a detrimental effect on large sections of the community.

Although rural poverty was one of the prevailing concerns of the sixties and seventies, the introduction of rural development programmes and a slow exodus to the cities has meant that urban poverty is now on the upswing. In a city of twelve million inhabitants the problems of housing, encroaching pollution from some of the most nightmare inducing traffic jams in the world, costly education and high interest rates has meant that the grievances of those living on the margins of this frantic economical and ecological battleground have sharpened in recent years.

South Korea is a country where appearances count for everything. The authorities are especially adept at masking off unsightly reality when it suits. Street beggars and down and outs are as hastily cleared off the streets as the spectacle of motor wrecks or breakdowns. Cars up for their MOT's are tested as much for their paintwork as for their mechanical condition. The residents of the slum district of Chang Shin Dong who were subjected in September last year to brutal attacks and intimidation from local authorities eager to raze their homes without providing adequate alternative accommodation, know what it is like to be at the receiving end of a system which pays scant attention to public welfare but is willing to spend vast amounts of money on programmes which create the cosmetic illusion that all is well. No doubt a realization of this was at the back of the minds of a group of handicapped protesters who turned out in July to demonstrate against Seoul's plans to present a Paraolympics in October. In their considered opinion the games were being proposed merely for show, a transparent strategy that would divert attention away from South Korea's inadequate welfare policies with regard to its handicapped and destitute.

Likewise South Korea's statistical affluence is wreathed in an air of irreality and misconceptions. Mercilessly high rents and ruthless interest rates in particular have meant that life for the ordinary person is becoming more and more difficult with an appalling personal debt picture emerging for the poor. Money in South Korea is not percolating downwards as it should but spurting upwards, creating a classic mould for class divisions.

Government welfare and public investment spending may not be as forthcoming as it should but there are also pitfalls in the overall economic structure of the country itself. Much of the profits from the manufacturing industries are accountable to a small number of overweened conglomerates, the five largest of whom can claim 22% of all sales. The lions' share is further subdivided and dibbied out to the remaining top ten companies who collectively are responsible for as much as one third of all manufactured goods. Behemoth companies like Goldstar, Samsung and Hyundai motors are over-reliant on exports to other countries making them prey to imponderables like shifts in demands, hostile or unfavourable exchange rates and protectionist counter-measures. South Korea's overdependence on America as an export market has only been slightly offset by investment abroad, an amount far too small to make any odds in the event of a significant downturn in demand from those markets. With many of South Korea's large and semi large companies in debt to banks, having borrowed vast amounts of money to float out subsidiaries whose equity stake they have catastrophically overestimated, debt-equity ratios are running at a harrowing five or six to one. A similar credit squeeze applies to commercial banks who are, by and large, too fragile to withstand permitting any serious rivals on the scene. What's more, a national legacy of accrued debts remain. In common with other Asian countries, South Korea had to deal with the phenomenon that accompanied a succession of world-wide shocks, beginning with Nixon's floating of the dollar and crescendoing with the two OPEC oil-price rises. Its ability to repay this massive sum is based upon the optimistic assumption that external conditions will remain favourable. Should that prove otherwise the country will have to urgently restructure its economic policies.

Many have conjectured that a small, elusive elite are making a great deal of money indeed but at the expense of the nation's underprivileged. It is widely held that economically speaking those social groups who have suffered most grievously from partition have been rural workers and labourers. Although this remains substantially true, more recently an urban underclass of some considerable size has been added to these groups. The fact remains however that South Korean farmers are indisputably poor. Their annual income is said to be something like two-thirds that of urban dwellers as opposed, for example, to their Japanese counterparts whose personal GNP exceeds their city peers. Place this cronic economic stasis against the massive profits and unaccountability of the chaebols and one has no choice but to conclude that the spoils are not being divided quite as they should.

(To be continued)

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